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## OTHER CITIES ARE TRYING NEW IDEAS

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From gun-offender registries to humiliating slide shows, some cities have become creative in cracking down on repeat gun offenders.

Officials in New York City, Boston and Chicago are considering creating gun-offender registries in which people convicted of firearm offenses would have to register with police departments and update their addresses, similar to the sex-offenders law.

Rochester, N.Y., authorities targeted gangs for heavy surveillance, resulting in numerous arrests. Those on probation or parole are required to attend courtroom "call-ins," in which their misdeeds are examined in shame-inducing slide shows in an effort to erase the anonymity that criminals covet.

St. Louis leaders started a "most violent offenders" program in 2002, in which police flag the case files of defendants with violent records so prosecutors and judges can set bail or consider plea bargains accordingly.

Charleston, S.C., authorities launched a program this summer to track repeat gun offenders and lobby for long prison terms.

Recidivism is rampant in the nation's criminal community, and incarceration hasn't proven an effective deterrent to many, statistics suggest.

Forty-one percent of the nation's 665,475 local jail inmates in 2002 - the most recent year such statistics are available - had a prior conviction for a violent offense, and almost a quarter had three or more prior incarcerations, according to the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics.

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